

4 September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Mobile Phone Policy

Since starting as Headteacher in April 2019, I have seen first-hand how the Mobile Phone Policy works in school. I have also received considerable feedback from students, staff and parents.

As we start a new academic year and put into place plans to drive up standards and student outcomes it is right to review whether the current mobile phone policy meets the needs of the school. My job is to make sure that your son/daughter leaves Welling School with the very best outcomes and with the skills to prepare them for the working world. Our policy on mobile phones must facilitate this aim. Therefore, in the autumn term I will be starting a meaningful consultation on whether there should or should not be changes to the current Mobile Phone Policy.

In preparation for this, it is important that I highlight to you a few points that relate to the current policy on mobile phones. This is because if we cannot get the existing Mobile Phone Policy to work it will increase the likelihood of a stricter policy being introduced. I write this with the hope that both students and parent/carers will take note of these comments:

- Mobile phones must not be used or seen during lesson time or in the school buildings with the exception of the School Canteen
- Wearing of earphones or headphones, wireless or otherwise, are not permitted anywhere on the school site including when students are leaving school
- Form Tutors will remind students to turn off their phones and put them into their school bags. Students who do not have a school bag that day will be required to hand in their mobile phone which will be placed in the school safe to be collected by the student at the end of the school day. A suitable school bag is a required item as listed in the School Uniform Policy
- Students must not use their mobile phones to take pictures or record videos either of themselves or others
- Mobile phones must not be used to cause harm to others or engage in bullying behaviour
- No music is to be played from mobile phones or through wired/wireless speakers
- Students must not use their mobile phone to contact parent/carers during the school day if they have an issue. Instead they should speak to an appropriate member of staff who will address the concerns and will make contact with parents/carers when necessary
- Parents/carers are requested not to contact students by phone, even if you are contacted by your child following an issue in school. If contacted by your child, please advise them to speak to an appropriate adult and allow the school to manage the situation. If you have an urgent message for your child, please contact the school reception and it will be passed on.

Parents/Carers, please can I ask that you take particular note of this final point. Unfortunately, in a minority of cases, I have seen parents either calling their child directly or phoning the school before staff were even aware of an incident. I hope you can appreciate this is not an effective way to work and indeed actually slows the school's response as an appropriate adult must then spend time speaking to a parent before they have even engaged with the issue at hand.

www.wellingschool-tkat.org

Headteacher:
Mr R Pett BA Hons, MA, NPQH

Welling School
Elsa Road, Welling
Kent, DA16 1LB

Tel: 020 8304 8531
Fax: 020 8301 6414
Email: enquiries@wellingschool-tkat.org



The school is currently working on a communication protocol with parents that will be shared shortly. This will allow staff more time to fulfil their primary purpose, working directly with your son/daughter and making sure they are achieving positive outcomes.

The existing Mobile Phone Policy was put in place to ensure that parents/carers were able to contact their child on the way to or from school. It also made provision for phones to be used during the school day. The latter I see as a privilege, but one that cannot have a negative impact on our ability to run an effective school.

As part of the consultation on the Mobile Phone Policy, I will be seeking feedback from all stakeholders and judging the degree to which the above bullet points are still having a negative impact on the running of the school.

With very best wishes.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Pett', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr R Pett
Headteacher